

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and reared in Southern New Jersey, Hildreth R. Hardy Jr., or "Rudy", as those close to him call him, graduated from Woodbury High School in Woodbury, New Jersey. From there, he went on to earn an undergraduate degree from Howard University in 1973. In March of 1974, he began his career in federal law enforcement and retired in January 2003.

Rudy began his law enforcement career as a Deputy U.S. Marshal and was assigned to the U.S. Marshals Office for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division. While employed as a Deputy U.S. Marshal, Rudy participated in virtually all of the duties that are assigned to a deputy marshal. Such activities included court security, fugitive investigations, witness protection and prisoner transportation. In 1976, Rudy became a member of the U.S. Marshals Service's elite Special Operations Group. In 1978, Rudy was promoted to a Witness Security Specialist, and he received title of Inspector.

As a Witness Security Specialist Inspector, Hildreth "Rudy" Hardy was responsible for the protection and relocation of federal witnesses who had entered the Federal Witness Protection Program. During this assignment, Rudy was chosen a member of a special cadre of inspectors who provided protection for many high profile witnesses. In 1981, Rudy was again promoted to the position of Supervisory Deputy U.S. Marshal. In 1983, Supervisor Hardy was transferred to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, in Washington, D.C. There, he supervised in both the court support section and in the "cell block" section.

On October 1983, Rudy was sworn in as a Special Agent of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Houston Field Division. While employed as an ATF Special Agent, Rudy investigated alleged and/or suspected criminal violations of the federal firearms, arson and explosives laws. During his early tenure at the ATF, Rudy also performed as the Division's Senior Operations Officer, the Public Information Officer/Recruiter, and he was a member of the Division's Special Response Team. In 1992, Special Agent Hardy was promoted to the position of Resident Agent in Charge/Group Supervisor. Group Supervisor Hardy supervised a violent crime task force consisting of both ATF agents and local law enforcement officers.

Supervisory Special Agent Hardy has received numerous awards, letters of accommodation and outstanding performance evaluations recognizing his professional accomplishments. Among such achievements, in 1979, The 100 Club of Houston named Rudy as the Houston area "Officer of the Year". Rudy has also been recognized as a Distinguished Graduate of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. In 1994, Special Agent Hardy was awarded the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms' Hostile Action Award, the Bureau of ATF's Special Commendation Award, and the Bureau of ATF's Distinguished Service Medal in 1996.

Rudy is a member of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) and the American Society for Industrial Security ASIS). Rudy is a licensed private pilot, and he is a licensed amateur radio operator.

"My decision to obtain a graduate degree was based on his desire to teach after retirement. I have enjoyed interacting with the practitioners and professors who address the most complex issues facing the criminal justice community today. The University of Houston-Downtown's masters program in

criminal justice has a strong reputation and its core curriculum and security management specialization suits my needs perfectly. I have taken pleasure in undertaking in-depth studies in "Issues in Criminal Justice" and Risk Analysis and Abatement. These and other courses coupled with my "behind the scenes" experience have served to strengthen my commitment to the criminal justice community. I am confident that pursuing a Master of Science degree at the University of Houston Downtown will give me the tools I need to succeed as a college teacher in the profession I love."

Hildreth R. Hardy Jr.